## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (currently amended):

A method for detecting accidental contact between a person and a dangerous portion of a woodworking machine, the method comprising:

providing a first electrode electrically coupled to the person;

providing a second electrode electrically coupled to the dangerous portion;

transmitting a signal by one of the first or second electrodes; ~~and~~

~~identifying contact if~~ detecting whether the transmitted signal is received by the other of the first or second electrodes; and if so,

sampling the signal a plurality of times within 200 microseconds to determine if the signal has at least one predetermined characteristic indicative of contact between a person and the dangerous portion.

Claim 2 (original):

The method of claim 1, where the step of transmitting includes transmitting the signal by the first electrode through the person.

Claim 3 (original):

The method of claim 1, where the step of transmitting includes transmitting the signal by the second electrode through the dangerous portion.

Claim 4 (original):

The method of claim 1, where the woodworking machine includes at least one cutting tool, and where the step of providing a second electrode includes providing a second electrode electrically coupled to the at least one cutting tool.

Claim 5 (original):

The method of claim 1, where the woodworking machine includes at least one guard, and where the step of providing a second electrode includes providing a second electrode electrically coupled to the at least one guard.

Claim 6 (original):

The method of claim 1, where the step of transmitting includes transmitting an alternating electrical signal.

Claim 7 (original):

The method of claim 6, where the alternating electrical signal has a particular frequency, and where the step of identifying includes identifying contact if an electrical signal having the particular frequency is received.

Claim 8 (original):

The method of claim 1, where the step of transmitting includes transmitting a ground electrical signal.

Claims 9-20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (new):

The method of claim 1, where the dangerous portion is a blade with cutting teeth, and where the sampling occurs while a single tooth is in contact with the person.

Claim 22 (new):

The method of claim 1, where the sampling occurs within 100 microseconds.

Claim 23 (new):

The method of claim 1, where the sampling occurs in less than 100 microseconds.

Claim 24 (new):

The method of claim 1, where the at least one predetermined characteristic indicative of contact between a person and the dangerous portion distinguishes such contact from proximity between a person and the dangerous portion.

Claim 25 (new):

The method of claim 24, where the at least one predetermined characteristic indicative of contact between a person and the dangerous portion involves peak-to-peak amplitude.

Claim 26 (new):

The method of claim 24, where the at least one predetermined characteristic indicative of contact between a person and the dangerous portion involves phase.

Claim 27 (new):

The method of claim 24, where the at least one predetermined characteristic indicative of contact between a person and the dangerous portion involves a positive value.

Claim 28 (new):

The method of claim 24, where the at least one predetermined characteristic indicative of contact between a person and the dangerous portion involves a negative value.

Claim 29 (new):

A method for detecting accidental contact between a person and a dangerous portion of a woodworking machine, the method comprising:

providing a first electrode electrically coupled to the person;

providing a second electrode electrically coupled to the dangerous portion;

transmitting a signal by one of the first or second electrodes;

receiving the transmitted signal by the other of the first or second electrodes; and

performing a step of sampling the signal a plurality of times to determine if the signal has at least one predetermined characteristic indicative of contact between a person and the dangerous portion.